

#### WIPP Quick Facts (As of 5-4-10)

**8,477**

Shipments received since opening  
(8,123 CH and 354RH)

**67,051**

Cubic meters of waste disposed  
(66,873 CH and 178 RH)

**131,613**

Containers disposed in the  
underground  
(131,264 CH and 349 RH)

## WIPP surpasses 11 years of safe operations



**File Photo**

March 26 can almost be considered a local holiday by the WIPP employees who come to work daily, entrusted with the task of disposing of the nation's defense related TRU waste. On March 26, 2010, WIPP celebrated its 11th anniversary.

Last year, WIPP's 10-year anniversary was a widely recognized event.

This year was somewhat quieter by comparison, but still significant. Here are some of the key milestones achieved by WIPP during its 11th year:

- WIPP received remote-handled (RH) waste from three more generator sites, Savannah River Site, Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Vallecitos Nuclear Center (VNC). VNC has been cleaned up of all its RH waste.
- Nevada Test Site became the 15th generator site to be cleaned up of all legacy TRU waste
- The WIPP Environmental Management System achieved ISO 14001 Certification, an internationally recognized standard
- WIPP Transportation System surpassed 9 million loaded miles traveled
- WIPP received its 8,000th shipment of TRU waste. On the same night, the 300 shipment of RH waste arrived on site.
- The TRUPACT-III shipping container safety analysis report was submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission after passing drop and leak tests
- The first sale of run-of-mine WIPP salt was made to Magnum Minerals LLC

WIPP's success is attributed to the safety culture engrained in WIPP employees from day one. WIPP plans for year 12 to be as safe and productive as the previous 11.

#### Knowing the WIPP Environmental Policy



The achievement of ISO 14001 certification of the Environmental Management System brought requirements that WIPP employees must follow to maintain the certification. All employees and contractors must generally know the environmental policy. The overall standards established by the WIPP policy are that everyone will:

- Comply with environmental regulations
- Prevent harm to the environment

## "Best in Class" award presented to WIPP EMS



The WIPP Environmental Management System was presented with the DOE Health, Safety and Security "Best in Class" award. The team, led by CBFO's Susan McCauslin, were recognized with the award for fuel conservation efforts during the construction of the new salt storage water evaporation pond at the WIPP Site. Above (l to r): CBFO Manager Dave Moody, McCauslin, Alan Grow, Laura Garcia, WTS President and General Manager Farok Sharif, Nathan Langford, Curtis Chester and Bernie Rodriguez.

## Lifesaving skills at 32,000 feet

American Eagle Flight 2705 was cruising at 32,000 feet about 25 minutes from landing at the Roswell, N.M., airport when the flight attendant's voice came over the intercom.

"Is there a doctor aboard?" No one raised their hand.

"Is there a nurse on board?" Again, no one raised their hand.

"Is there anyone medically trained?" Only one person raised his hand – Lynn Eaton, manager of WTS's External Emergency Management.



**External Emergency Management Manager  
Lynn Eaton.**

A 72-year-old gentleman in seat 11C was having a heart attack. Eaton was able to draw on his experience at WIPP, 26 years as an EMT and eight years as a state medical investigator. He administered oxygen to the man and helped keep him calm by talking to him about his visit and family. Occasionally, he would hold up fingers for the man to count to gauge his alertness.

Once on the ground, the plane was met by what Eaton described as an "armada of paramedics."

Dr. Thomas Bettes, M.D., director of American Airlines Medical and Occupational

- Reduce waste
- Conserve energy and water
- Reuse and recycle materials
- Buy and use products and materials with less environmental impact

Health Services thanked Eaton on behalf of the airline.

"We are all grateful that you were on board and freely offered your medical expertise when it was needed most," said Bettles. "Without a doubt, you greatly improved a difficult situation."

Back at WIPP, Eaton's efforts were also recognized. At a managers meeting, WTS President and General Manager Farok Sharif presented him with an Individual WIPP Star award, as well as a WIPP medallion for going above and beyond duties.

"We extend our get well wishes to the passenger who fell ill on the plane," said Sharif, "And we are so grateful to Lynn for stepping up and using his skills to help someone in need."

Eaton's job requires a lot of travel and on that particular day he was on his way back home. He had just finished teaching a two-day training course for first responders in Stockton, Calif. The radiological response transportation training is designed to ensure consistency in responding to incidents involving radioactive materials. Those participating in the training were first responders along the route to WIPP from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and GE Hitachi Vallecitos Nuclear Center.

Years ago, as chief EMT for the Grants, N.M. ambulance service, Eaton was called upon to perform CPR on patients on five or so occasions. This, however, was the first time he'd been asked to render medical aid to someone on an airplane. Fortunately, for the passenger in seat 11C, Eaton's skills were as effective in the air as they are on the ground.

## WTS receives President's Award



**Recipients of the Presidents award accept the award from URS Global Management and Operations General Manager David Pethick and WTS President and General Manager Farok Sharif. Above (l to r): Bobby Espinoza, Joe Walker, Jerry Graham, Pethick, Aaron Curbello and Sharif.**

WIPP's managing and operating contractor, URS Washington TRU Solutions (WTS) received the President's Award for Safety Excellence from URS Global Management and Operations General Manager David Pethick.

WTS was recognized with the award for achieving over 1 million hours worked without a lost time injury.

"This is a testament to the everyday commitment that you have demonstrated," Pethick said. "Safety is the most important thing we do."

This marks the seventh time that WTS has received this award.



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## WIPP recognizes Earth Day



WIPP environmental staff handed out reusable water canisters made from recyclable aluminum to employees in honor of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22. Above (l to r): Kristine Nelson (WRES), Patrice Jones (CDI) and Kendra Kessler (CDI).

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## Another “mile”-stone reached by WIPP trucks



**File Photo**

In 1999, the WIPP transportation system accomplished its first loaded mile after the first shipment departed Los Alamos National Laboratory headed to the WIPP site in southeast New Mexico. Flash forward to today, where that same transportation system is celebrating 10 million loaded miles traveled to WIPP. A loaded mile refers to a mile traveled by a WIPP truck transporting TRU waste to WIPP. WIPP trucks have traveled over 20 million miles round trip.

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### **WIPP receives 4,000th shipment from Idaho National Laboratory**

WIPP has safely received and disposed of its 4,000th shipment of transuranic waste from Idaho National Laboratory (INL).

Shipments from INL to WIPP began in 1999. Since then, INL has sent more shipments to WIPP than any other site. The next closest number of shipments at 2,045 comes from the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, which completed shipping in 2005.

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WIPP's trucks have been getting TRU waste shipments to WIPP safely for 11 years. In that time, the system has become a gold standard in the transportation industry.

WIPP shipments are held to extremely high standards. A WIPP truck must pass a Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) Level VI inspection before it can take to the road. A Level VI inspection is designed specifically for radiological shipments. The truck can then be subject to the same Level VI inspection before it enters a new state, or anywhere along the route during a shipment, at the state's discretion.

That WIPP trucks have driven so many miles without any accident involving serious injury or radiological release shows to the professionalism of WIPP's drivers. WIPP drivers face an extensive background check and numerous training requirements, including radiological and hazardous materials training, before they are permitted to transport a WIPP shipment.

The WIPP trucks are operated by two trucking companies, CAST Specialty Transportation of Henderson, Colo. and Visionary Solutions LLC of Oak Ridge, Tenn.

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## **Hanford resumes shipments**

Welcome back, Hanford.

In March, Washington State's Hanford Site resumed shipments of TRU waste to WIPP. Prior to March, waste had not been shipped from Hanford since September 2008.

The Department of Energy (DOE) had not planned to resume shipments from Hanford until 2014, but the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding made acceleration possible.

"This investment has allowed Hanford to speed up preparing the waste for shipment," said Chad Twitchell, of the Carlsbad Field Office Recovery Act Project Planning & Execution Office. "ARRA is allowing us to significantly reduce the nation's nuclear waste footprint by accelerating the cleanup process across the country."

The DOE has started with two shipments to WIPP a week from Hanford and plans to build to five a week by late spring and summer. By fall, WIPP may be receiving up to seven shipments a week from Hanford.

Hanford became the fourth DOE site to ship waste to WIPP on July 12, 2000. WIPP has received over 450 shipments from Hanford.

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## Steve Kopp takes over as CTAC manager

Steve Kopp joined the Carlsbad Field Office Technical Assistance Contractor as senior manager on March 1, 2010. He brings more than 30 years of experience, having previously held positions as senior program manager, senior project manager and technical services manager. He says his focus is on maintaining CTAC's excellent standard of service to the CBFO. He is looking forward to developing an active personal involvement in Carlsbad, as well as representing Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc.



**New CTAC manager Steve Kopp.**

Kopp's varied expertise lies in regulatory compliance, quality assurance, nuclear services, and environment, safety and health. He has managed multiple technical services contracts that include waste management, nuclear safety, quality assurance, environmental compliance and federal contract management. He has applied his experience in these areas to projects and programs throughout the DOE complex.

Prior to his CTAC appointment, Kopp was the corporate director of regulatory compliance for Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc., headquartered in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Kopp said he's excited about the opportunity at WIPP and he is really looking forward to getting used to his surroundings in Carlsbad.

"My wife and I have appreciated the warm, friendly reception we've gotten since coming to Carlsbad," Kopp said. "Lots of folks have introduced themselves and offered help. We're looking forward to becoming as active in the Carlsbad community as we were back in Knoxville, Tennessee."

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## WIPP participates in successful Relay for Life

Carlsbad's Relay for Life was a huge success and, as usual, WIPP played a big part in the volunteer-driven fundraising effort for the American Cancer Society.

This year's Carlsbad event raised more than \$100,000, and more money is coming in, said Leslie Rostro, WTS employee and member of the Relay for Life Committee. Helen Nations (WTS) and Lisa Roback (TRANSCOM) were also members of the 2010 Relay for Life Committee.

The 16-hour event, which took place along the Pecos River, drew more than 2,200 registered walkers, including 271 participants from WIPP-related teams.

"We've exceeded our goal and reached out to so many people who have been affected by cancer," said Roback. "I'd just like to thank all of those at WIPP who were involved in the 2010 Carlsbad Relay for Life, who helped make it the best year ever!"



Money raised from the event goes to research, prevention and detection programs that are all part of the fight against cancer.

“Having the Cancer Prevention Study (CPS-3) at the event this year helped confirm the commitment of the American Cancer Society to researching cures for the disease at the grass roots level,” Roback said. “Thanks to the people who signed up for the CPS-3 and thanks to those of you who helped make this event so successful.”

Nearly 150 people participated in the CPS-3 study, Rostro said. Also, 200 cancer survivors were recognized at the event.

Members of the WIPP-family who competed in this year’s Relay for Life include:

- “DOE and the CTACers” - The team had 14 members and was chaired by Gayla White. Navarro, which holds the CTAC contract, also made a \$500 corporate sponsorship.
- “WIPP Crusaders” - The 22-member Washington Regulatory and Environmental Services (WRES) team, chaired by Dona Dewey, sponsored a card run as an additional fundraiser
- “WTS Characterizers”- Rostro chaired this 36-member team. URS Washington TRU Solutions (WTS) gave a \$500 corporate sponsorship to Relay, and the Characterizers received second place for online fundraising
- “Employees of LANL, Atomic Walkers” - The Los Alamos National Laboratory team consisted of 37 members and was chaired by Jerri McTaggart and Laurie Smith
- CEMRC – The Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center team consisted of four members and was chaired by Tina Sullivan
- “Team Joey” – Brenda Kirkes chaired this WTS team, which included a whopping 47 participants



- “Haug’s Legs” – Diana Murray and Deana Pearce co-chaired this WTS team of 35
- Sandia National Labs – Dina Howell chaired the Sandia National Laboratories team of 16 members
- “Stoller & Friends” – Lolly Espinoza, Lisa Atwood and Johnny Angelis co-chaired this team of an incredible 60 members. Stoller’s team also was the winner of 2010’s best campsite award.

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### Interested in WIPP?

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If you would like to be notified when TRU TeamWorks is updated with the latest information about WIPP, send an email message to: [TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws](mailto:TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws).

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## Panel 6 mining finishes; Panel 7 begins

Mining operations in Panel 6 of WIPP's underground were completed on March 31. The mining process took just under two years to complete, beginning on June 30, 2008. Next up for Panel 6 is an outfitting with electrical equipment that will make day-to-day operations possible. It is expected to be declared ready by the end of this fiscal year.

"I'm proud to report Panel 6 mining is complete," Underground Manager Bob Kirby said. "Congratulations go out to everyone involved."

As Panel 6 was finishing up, Panel 7 was in the preparation stages for mining. All of the mining equipment has been moved over to the Panel 7 area, and initial mining for that panel began April 24. The process is expected to be complete within the same time frame as Panel 6.

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The U.S. Department of Energy  
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

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